

EXTRACTS.

THE OLD HOMESTEAD.
Twas when the sunset bubes
Gilded the low old house;
But lo! many mornies come,
We lagged, fondly turning
Toward the spot we loved as well;
With sad and tender yearning,
To say our last farewell.
No more for us the garden
And level-wrought rooms to roan;
The strange there is warden—
No, 'tis not his home!
It hath no mornies bringing
For his joy to pain;
For him no echoes ring—
Shall bring the loved again.
Sweet home! home! home!—
With precious memories!
No life in all its going
Shall bring more bale than these.
A dear, bright picture ever,
As then, when sunset fell,
Youth-filled, thus forever
Will love, sweet home, farewell!

Boston Transcript.

THE "QUARTERLY REVIEW" ON CRICKET.

There is an admirable article on cricket in the new number of the *Quarterly Review*, which all lovers of the game should read. If we differ from some of its writer's conclusions, we do so respectfully and amicably. But it seems to us that he is depressed more than enough by what he calls "the huge and wearisome labours of the present time" and that he wisely hopes the clerk of the weather will do much to remedy the evil that he fears. The superiority of bat over ball is neither so certain as the Reviewer deems it to be, and his suggestions that the wicket should be made larger or the bat smaller is a hasty one. No true bowler would approve of an alteration that would put his most successful efforts below comparison with those of Myatt, Jackson, or Spofforth; and no true batsman would care to excuse his own smaller scores by proving that his weapon of defence was less efficient than that which was wielded by Fitch or Par or W. G. Grace. Whatever other results these proposed reforms might have upon the game itself, they would be fatal to its historical continuity; and we believe the Reviewer himself will admit the force of this objection. With regard to his third remedy, we are at variance with him for a different reason. He rejects that remedy as unprofitably unresolvable. We have always thought the alteration of the leg-before-wicket rule a mistake. If a bowler can by a break-back or by a twist in from the on-side tempt the striker to put his legs where his bat should be, the striker should pay the penalty. The Reviewer, however, is content to say that, "reversion to the old rule is not universally approved because it would put too much power into the ampler's hands."—In answer to that objection, it may be said that the umpire's rule was in force. Then he had merely to decide whether a certain ball would have hit the wicket if it had not been obstructed by the batsman's legs; now he has to decide, in addition to that question, the far more difficult one as to whether the ball, holding its course from the pitch, would have hit the wicket if not obstructed. His power, we also contend, would probably remain no greater than it is at present. As to the corollary derived by the Reviewer from huge scores and drawn matches, we again find ourselves not quite of his opinion. He does not insist enough upon the fact that great matches, three-day matches at Lord's, are always played out unless stopped by rain. It is for the Surrey executive to consider how far the fault rests with themselves that so many matches in proportion are left unfinished at the Oval. The remedy for this evil may be borrowed *à la* from Moore's *guy* that "The best of all ways to lengthen out days, is to steal a few hours from the right, my love." And the very best way for cricketers to ensure that their matches should not end in lame and impotent draws is to begin play punctually at 11 a.m. on the first as on the succeeding days. Had this plan been adopted at the Oval in the last great match between England and Australia, the game so voraciously left undecided would have been finished.

Turning now to another pregnant observation made by the Reviewer, there can be no doubt at all that, as he says, cricket is not yet found its *vates* sacer. And that date *sacer* must not slumber much longer. By

witnesses only can by any possibility, to use the Reviewer's words, "record in words which posterity will read the great achievements of batmen or of bowler." If the doughty deeds of Plich and Myatt, and Fether, of Daff and Par and Caffyn, and their respective contemporaries, are not soon recorded in a permanent form by men who saw them, the time will come when those deeds will be lost through the vagueness of history.

Mr. Cobden has had the good fortune to be the first to record the history of cricket in a book which will be a valuable addition to the library of every lover of the game.

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ALL ABOUT AN UNBORN BOY.

What shall we do with our boy? is a problem as perplexing for French as for English parents. A case which has just been before the Paris Correctional Tribunal will show what great importance some French parents attach to the future trade or profession of their offspring. Mons. and Mme. Paneton during the fifteen years they have been married have had one quarrel, or rather the same quarrel, for the motives of it is always the same. Here is how it usually begins.—Paneton, a journeyman mason, comes home every night at seven, for dinner, as they say here, in England we should say supper. Paneton's brow is clouded; he throws himself into a chair and says— "What a dirty trade? How can parents be so stupid as to make masons of their sons? My son shall not be a mason; oh, no, if I know it!" "Oh, you're right there," replies Madame Paneton, while cutting the bread into the soup. "He shall be a cabinetmaker," continues Paneton. "Never while I live," replies Madame; "he shall be a wood-turner." "A wood-turner?" retorts Monsieur, "catch me making a wood-turned boy." I know ten of my chums who make wood-turners of their sons, and every one of these ten have turned bad characters." "Bubbish; our boy shall be a wood-turner," I tell you he shall be a cabinetmaker." "My son is a pasteur; I would rather strangle him with these hands." "You are not a mother to the boy you are a stepmother." It is you, mother, who are a stepmother." At that point Paneton seizes the first thing that comes to hand and hurls it at Madame's head. She returns the first and the row is renewed every night. The curious circumstance in the case is that they have been fifteen years married. To be brief, it is impossible that for many years to come Paneton will not be over 79, just as I think it possible that for many years to come Simeon Reaves, I hope he will go on saying "good-bye, sweethearts, good-bye" to the end of the century. Still, there is a shade of consistency to be observed even in the midst of our good wishes. When a man hath lost his wife, he will well be pained if he emerges, like Taguano, as Simeon would say, "once again" blind in health and impaired in powers with the cry of "rescue and retire!" He has a right to snatch from the withering tree of his popularity the last shrivelling fruits, or even to pick up the windfalls, but as he has not exactly a moral right to make capital by dooming the public with farewell performances. People often go exorbitantly, and are put to great inconvenience to hear, let us say, Reaves, for the last time, and they muster in force, with full hearts, empty purses, and brawling eyes, to look, say, upon Papa Pasdeloup as he passes for ever out of sight. And lo! it seems Simeon never means to retire at all, and before the end of the year, the French Papa is off to Monte Carlo, and "at it again!"—Truth.

the immense assembly, to Pasdeloup, 42 Conneau and Pasdeloup, with their dilapidated and dripping boards," said a French paper, "looked like two ruined doilies." The whole assembly of people rose with acclamations, and when they sat down many were in tears. But the net result was better than tears, it being, in fact, cash. I am assured that so successful was this testimonial enterprise that "Papa" Pasdeloup will enjoy a comfortable annuity in his old age—*jeux de cartes*.

I last saw Pasdeloup at Ella's Musical Union. That English veteran was presiding for the last time in person over his inopportune quartet society. Pasdeloup, the French veteran, bore kindly witness to Ella's work in England. He said to me, "Ella est bien sympathique; il a beaucoup de travail pour la musique en Angleterre." I remember, too, that Julian was also frequently to be seen there. "C'est le," he frequently said to me, "qui est le plus connu." Ella's "Art tonjour, tout!" I like this friendly Freemasonry between the old chieftains; it is better than the frightful discord too often to be found amongst their disciples.

But the old war horse, it seems, cannot rest. Like Simeon Reaves, he cannot say "good-bye" for the last time. Until fortune forswears him, why should he forsake the *bonheur* of the old? Still, there is a shade of consistency to be observed even in the midst of our good wishes. When a man hath lost his wife, he will well be pained if he emerges, like Taguano, as Simeon would say, "once again" blind in health and impaired in powers with the cry of "rescue and retire!" He has a right to snatch from the withering tree of his popularity the last shrivelling fruits, or even to pick up the windfalls, but as he has not exactly a moral right to make capital by dooming the public with farewell performances. People often go exorbitantly, and are put to great inconvenience to hear, let us say, Reaves, for the last time, and they muster in force, with full hearts, empty purses, and brawling eyes, to look, say, upon Papa Pasdeloup as he passes for ever out of sight. And lo! it seems Simeon never means to retire at all, and before the end of the year, the French Papa is off to Monte Carlo, and "at it again!"—Truth.

THIMBLES.

The good people of Amsterdam have just been celebrating with all due pomp the bicentenary of the invention of thimbles. According to the legend which they have adopted, this invention of these useful appliances was a goldsmith, named Nicholas van Benschoten, who was attached to a lady of the name of Van Reussel. The dame was not only beautiful, but accomplished; and her labours at the embroidery frame inflicted so much pain and injury upon her lovely fingers that the dealer in precious metals set to work to devise a protection for them. The result was a thimble, double-boss of gold, for which was a thimble, double-boss of gold, for the production of which Myneur van Benschoten has now been honoured in truly patriotic style. The Dutch go on to say that the future child will be either a cabinetmaker or a woodturner, or it is a boy; but supposing it is a girl!

ANECDOTAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

PAPA PASDELoup.

Papa Pasdeloup is to the front again. He is actually after very brief "final" retirement, engaged to conduct concerts at Monte Carlo! Parting, we all know, is such sweet sorrow, that to kiss and meet again tomorrow is no unusual occurrence; and so it appears to be with M. Pasdeloup, who was adopted by the English. This is very kind of them; but, unfortunately, there is only too good a reason for believing that the whole story of the Amsterdam goldsmith and his lady is a fabrication from beginning to end. For if Nicholas van Benschoten, who had been dead 68 years, made mention of the article as a summer, indeed, Pasdeloup's popular concerts have given him a wide world-wide renown. Like Bouleau and Costa, at the decline of a long and vigorous life Pasdeloup has lost money, chiefly through his wife's extravagance—these people have a habit of losing their thimbles for armed gauntlets. It is probable that thimbles, which mean "coverings for the thumb," were used in England as early as anywhere else, and before needles were commonly made so small as to be driven by the finger. In Holland the thimble of orthodox shape is called a finger-head; but there is also another word in the passage in which the ladies of King John's time are represented as exchanging their thimbles for armed gauntlets. It is probable that thimbles, which mean "coverings for the thumb," were used in England as early as anywhere else, and before needles were commonly made so small as to be driven by the finger. In Holland the thimble of orthodox shape is called a finger-head; but there is also another word in the passage in which the ladies of King John's time are represented as exchanging their thimbles for armed gauntlets. 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